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8 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
9 FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA  
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11 Maria Elena Garcia, et al.,

12 Plaintiffs,

13 v.

14 City of Farmersville, et al.,

15 Defendants.  
16

No. 1:21-cv-00482-KJM-EPG

ORDER

17 In a previous order, the court directed the parties not subject to the automatic stay imposed  
18 by the Bankruptcy Court for the Southern District of Texas to “either renew their summary  
19 judgment motions, request additional briefing on defendants’ pending motions, or move for a  
20 discretionary stay of the case.” Prev. Order (June 9, 2025), ECF No. 212. The court again  
21 reminded parties that any motion must comply with this District’s Local Rules and this court’s  
22 standing order, including this court’s requirement that parties meet and confer. *Id.*

23 Defendant City of Farmersville notified the court of its renewal of its motion for summary  
24 judgment, Mot. Summ. J., ECF No. 159, and its position that additional briefing is not necessary,  
25 Not. Renewal, ECF No. 215. The court will issue a separate order resolving that motion on the  
26 briefs as submitted.

27 On July 1, 2025, defendant County of Tulare (Tulare) filed a Motion for Administrative  
28 Relief, requesting a discretionary stay of the matter. Mot. Stay, ECF No. 213. Whether to stay a

1 case is an “exercise of judgment, which must weigh competing interests and maintain an even  
2 balance.” *Landis v. N. Am. Co.*, 299 U.S. 248, 254–55 (1936). The party moving for a stay, here  
3 Tulare, “bears the burden of establishing its need.” *Clinton v. Jones*, 520 U.S. 681, 708 (1997)  
4 (internal citation omitted). As the Supreme Court has prescribed, “if there is even a fair  
5 possibility that the stay . . . will work damage to some one else,” then the party seeking the stay  
6 “must make out a clear case of hardship or inequity.” *Landis*, 299 U.S. at 255.

7 Under the Local Rules of this District, motions for administrative relief are reserved for  
8 non-substantive “miscellaneous” administrative matters such as extending deadlines, setting page  
9 limitations and similar requests that can be decided without a hearing. *See* E.D. Cal. L.R. 233.  
10 As plaintiffs correctly point out in opposition, Tulare’s request for a discretionary stay is a  
11 substantive matter that cannot be characterized as miscellaneous or administrative. *See* Opp’n,  
12 ECF No. 216. Moreover, plaintiffs’ filing asserts that the bankruptcy court has now resolved the  
13 related bankruptcy matter such that the contours of the case that can proceed before this court are  
14 now clear. *Id.* at 3–5. Plaintiffs’ representation appears to be correct, even if certain questions  
15 about who may be called as a witness in any trial, for example, may still need to be resolved by  
16 this court. Beyond being improperly characterized and noticed, Tulare’s motion does not cite to  
17 any controlling authority to support its request for a discretionary stay. *See* Mot. Stay. Tulare  
18 says only “that the matter should be tried as a whole” and it is “prepared to go to trial” when “all  
19 parties are as well.” Mot. Stay at 2. Tulare does not “make out a clear case of hardship or  
20 inequity” if this court does not impose a discretionary stay. *Landis*, 299 U.S. at 255. In reply,  
21 Tulare explains its motion “is simply suggesting that all parties would remain as they are  
22 currently, pending the resolution of any Motions for Summary Judgment on file.” Reply at 2,  
23 ECF No. 216. While Tulare’s reply seemingly implies it no longer believes a discretionary stay is  
24 warranted, Tulare did not withdraw its motion or otherwise clarify its position to the court.

25 The court has repeatedly warned the parties in this case of their duties to follow this  
26 court’s standing order and this District’s Local Rules. Tulare defendants are specifically  
27 cautioned at this point that this court’s rules regarding citations must not be disregarded. The  
28 basic purpose of a legal citation is to allow the reader to locate a cited source accurately and

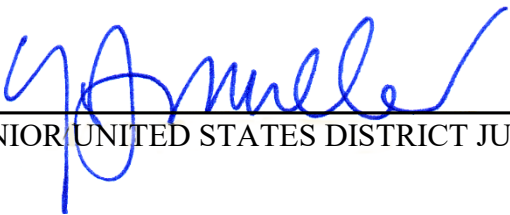
1 efficiently. Parties are expected to cite to authority and any cited authority should be relevant to  
2 the matter at hand and identify the source and specific page referenced. Given the court's  
3 repeated warnings to the parties in this case about the applicability of the Local Rules and this  
4 court's standing order, **any subsequent deviation from these rules or any other rules in this**  
5 **court's standing order is likely to result** in sanctions and the court may decline to consider any  
6 noncompliant filing.

7 As explained in a previous order, the court "declines to address whether a discretionary  
8 stay is appropriate without a formal motion and briefing by the parties." Prev. Order (June 9,  
9 2025) at 2. The court therefore **denies** Tulare's motion for a discretionary stay.

10 This order resolves ECF No. 213.

11 IT IS SO ORDERED.

12 DATED: September 22, 2025.

  
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SENIOR UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE